

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1 and 5 are independent claims.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and §103

Kuwayama

Claims 1, 5, and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by *newly cited* Kuwayama et al. (US 2002/0034898). Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw this rejection at least because Kuwayama, which was filed on September 21, 2001, is not prior art with respect to the present application. A verified translation of the Japanese priority document for the present application was filed on February 27, 2003. This document establishes a priority date of January 19, 2001 for the present application. As such, the priority date of the present application is before the September 21, 2001 filing date of Kuwayama.

Tournier

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 10, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Tournier et al. (US 5,408,743). Claims 3, 4, 7, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Tournier in view of Reimert (4,830,408). Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Tournier in view of Ikeno (US 5,045,527).

With respect to independent claims 1 and 5, Applicants have amended these claims to add recitations that 1) the wire connection portion is “pressed radially uniformly over an entire periphery of the wire connection portion and over an entire length of the wire connection

portion” and 2) “the diameter of the wire connection portion is uniformly reduced over an entire periphery and an entire length of the wire connection portion.” This amendment is not new matter at least because it finds support in the Specification at page 13, lines 1-12; page 26, lines 7-22; and Figs. 8 and 10.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of independent claims 1 and 5 at least because Tournier does not teach or suggest that claimed structure for or method of waterproofing a terminal-wire connecting portion in which) the wire connection portion is “pressed radially uniformly over an entire periphery of the wire connection portion and over an entire length of the wire connection portion” and 2) “the diameter of the wire connection portion is uniformly reduced over an entire periphery and an entire length of the wire connection portion.” The claimed uniform reduction in diameter enhances the intimate contact with the wire connecting portion, thus improving the waterproofing effect.

In contrast, as is shown in Figs. 2A-2I of Tournier, the diameter of Tournier’s connecting part 10 is not *reduced uniformly over an entire periphery and an entire length*. Instead, the outside diameter of the connecting part 10 is reduced by different amounts over the length of the connecting portion so that the final outside diameter of the connecting portion substantially equal to the initial diameter of the cable and core (col. 4, line 64- col. 5, line 5 & Figs. 2E-2G). In addition, there is no suggestion to modify Tournier’s connecting part so that it would have this feature.

As such, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claims 1 and 5. In addition, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claims 2 and 6 at least because of their dependency from claims 1 and 5, respectively.

Applicants also respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claims 3, 4, 7, and 8 at least because of their dependency from one of claims 1 and 5, and because Reimert, which was cited by the Examiner in an attempt to show a peripheral groove for a seal member, does not cure the deficiencies in Tournier discussed above with respect to claims 1 and 5, and respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claim 9 at least because of its dependency from claim 5, and because Ikeno, which was cited by the Examiner in an attempt to show a rotary swaging machine, does not cure the deficiencies in Tournier discussed above with respect to claim 5.

Conclusion

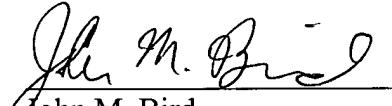
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Appln. No. 10/046,710

Docket No. Q68136
Art Unit 2831

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



John M. Bird
Registration No. 46,027

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE



23373

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Date: June 17, 2003

APPENDIX
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE
IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 10 and 11 are canceled.

The claims are amended as follows:

Claim 1. (Amended) A structure for waterproofing a terminal-wire connecting portion comprising:
a wire including a conductor portion and an insulating sheath; and
a terminal including a substantially cylindrical wire connection portion,
wherein the conductor portion and the insulating sheath are inserted in the wire connection portion, and the wire connection portion is pressed radially uniformly over an entire periphery thereof of the wire connection portion and over an entire length of the wire connection portion so that the conductor portion and the insulating sheath are held in intimate contact with an inner peripheral surface of the wire connection portion, and
the diameter of the wire connection portion is uniformly reduced over an entire periphery
and an entire length of the wire connection portion.

Claim 5. (Amended) Method of waterproofing a terminal-wire connecting portion comprising the steps of:

simultaneously inserting a conductor portion and an insulating sheath of a wire into a substantially cylindrical wire connection portion of a terminal; and

pressing radially uniformly the wire connection portion over an entire periphery of the
wire connection portion and over an entire length of the wire connection portion; thereof to
wherein the wire connection portion is be- compressively plastically deformed so that the
diameter of the wire connection portion is uniformly reduced over an entire periphery and an
entire length of the wire connection portion.